

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 442

September 19, 1995, 2:43 p.m.
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WELFARE REFORM BILL/Compromise Proposals

SUBJECT: Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 1995 . . . H.R. 4. Dole/Daschle modified amendment No. 2683 to the Dole modified perfecting amendment No. 2280 to the committee substitute amendment.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 87-12

SYNOPSIS: As reported with a committee substitute amendment, H.R. 4, the Family Self-Sufficiency Act, will overhaul six of the Nation's ten largest welfare programs.

The Dole modified perfecting amendment would strike the provisions of the committee substitute amendment and insert in lieu thereof substitute provisions, entitled "The Work Opportunity Act of 1995."

The Dole/Daschle modified amendment would make bipartisan, compromise changes to the Dole amendment as follows:

- **Child Care:** approximately \$1 billion annually would be earmarked for child care from the \$16.8 billion annual total that will be provided in family assistance block grants. An additional \$3 billion would be authorized and appropriated over 5 years for child care, to be distributed among those States that maintained their current level of funding for AFDC child care; any amount a State spent above its current spending level would be matched using the Federal Medicaid matching rate.

- **Work requirements:** At a State's option, single parents with children under the age of 6 could be held to a 20-hour per week work requirement instead of a 30-hour per week requirement; a State could still count those parents as meeting the bill's work participation requirements.

- **Job training:** Provisions relating to job training would be stricken (a unanimous consent agreement was reached governing the consideration of a job training consolidation bill at a later date; see vote Nos. 481-487).

- **A "contingency fund"** would receive an appropriation of \$1 billion over 5 years. To receive a portion of these contingency funds, a State would need an unemployment rate that was at least 6.5 percent and that was 110 percent of the rate for the corresponding quarters of either of the 2 previous years. Further, a State would be required to spend the same amount on welfare (under Titles IV-A and IV-F) as it did in FY 1994, and would then have to spend additional amounts which would be matched out of the contingency fund at the Medicaid matching rate.

(See other side)

YEAS (87)				NAYS (12)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republican (42 or 79%)		Democrats (45 or 98%)		Republicans (11 or 21%)	Democrats (1 or 2%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (0)
Bennett	Kassebaum	Akaka	Hollings	Abraham	Moynihan	Hatfield- ^{3AY}	
Bond	Kempthorne	Baucus	Inouye	Ashcroft			
Brown	Kyl	Biden	Johnston	Coats			
Burns	Lugar	Bingaman	Kennedy	Faircloth			
Campbell	Mack	Boxer	Kerrey	Gramm			
Chafee	McCain	Bradley	Kerry	Grams			
Cochran	McConnell	Breaux	Kohl	Helms			
Cohen	Murkowski	Bryan	Lautenberg	Inhofe			
Coverdell	Packwood	Bumpers	Leahy	Lott			
Craig	Pressler	Byrd	Levin	Nickles			
D'Amato	Roth	Conrad	Lieberman	Smith			
DeWine	Santorum	Daschle	Mikulski				
Dole	Shelby	Dodd	Moseley-Braun				
Domenici	Simpson	Dorgan	Murray				
Frist	Snowe	Exon	Nunn				
Gorton	Specter	Feingold	Pell				
Grassley	Stevens	Feinstein	Pryor				
Gregg	Thomas	Ford	Reid				
Hatch	Thompson	Glenn	Robb				
Hutchison	Thurmond	Graham	Rockefeller				
Jeffords	Warner	Harkin	Sarbanes				
		Heflin	Simon				
			Wellstone				

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business
2—Necessarily Absent
3—Illness
4—Other

SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

- Hardship exemption: the hardship exemption (which would allow a State to keep up to 15 percent of its welfare recipients on its welfare rolls after their 5-year, lifetime eligibility limits for welfare had expired) would be changed to 20 percent.
- Funding for the Maternal and Child Health block grant would be increased by \$75 million per year, with the additional funding earmarked for abstinence education.
- Program evaluation: \$20 million per year would be authorized for program evaluation.
- Food stamps: the standard deduction from income given to all food stamp recipients would be \$132 in FY 1996 and \$124 for FYs 1997-2002 (currently it is \$134; the Congressional Budget Office's preliminary estimate is that this change would result in \$1.1 billion in additional savings);
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI): All SSI recipients with substance abuse problems would be referred for treatment. An additional \$50 million per year would be authorized for each of FYs 1997 and 1998 for treatment under the Substance Abuse Block Grant. SSI eligibility would be conformed to match the Social Security retirement age.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

We are extremely thankful for all of the patience and hard work Senators have put into negotiating a compromise amendment that will make this bill supportable by a majority of Senators. The most difficult issue that was resolved is child care. Many Members were anxious to increase the amount provided for child care, because they felt that without increased funding it would not be possible for welfare mothers, who comprise the vast majority of adult welfare recipients, to leave welfare and enter the workforce. Other Members were worried about creating a new entitlement that the country could not afford or of creating a new form of dependency. The resulting compromise amendment would appropriate an additional \$3 billion for child care and would fence \$1 billion per year of State family assistance grants for child care. Thus, the amendment would guarantee at least \$8 billion in Federal child care funding. Further, it would also impose stringent maintenance of effort and matching requirements on the States to guarantee that they also spend considerable amounts to provide child care for welfare mothers as they move from welfare to work. We are pleased with this compromise, which would result in substantially greater funding for child care without creating a new entitlement program and without increasing Federal spending by more than \$3 billion. Another key aspect of this compromise agreement is that it would drop all of the provisions on job training. We are not abandoning this issue; a unanimous consent agreement has also been reached to consider a job training bill under certain amendment and time constraints. The issue will be resolved; it will only be resolved separately. Other contentious issues would also be satisfactorily resolved by the Dole/Daschle compromise amendment. It is not likely that any Senator is entirely pleased with this amendment, but we are certain that most will find it acceptable.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.